

Blaxhall Village Newsletter



Winter 2020

The View from on High ...



Stone Common resident Malcolm Pearce has been exploring Blaxhall's skies with a new drone in recent weeks, kindly sharing some of the resulting images with the newsletter. This lovely shot is, of course, St Peter's church, looking north-west towards Blaxhall Hall and Little Glemham, the pylons can be seen marching to the western horizon at ¼ mile intervals. We have another great aerial shot inside, together with news of the church's fundraising appeal, local transport, several upcoming village events and more.

Christmas Party

Blaxhall's traditional Yuletide shindig took place in early December, with music provided by much sought-after local artist Ant MacAndrew. A healthy turnout enjoyed another great evening of memorable dancing, enthusiastic drinking and copious laughs.

Many thanks to both organisers and partygoers for a top night's entertainment. (Turn to page 6 for a couple more pics).



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Martin Danfer and Jonathan King, with the newly installed doors.

New Porch Doors

As hoped, our replacement doors were fitted in time for the Carol Service, and certainly don't disappoint. Beautifully crafted from oak by Blaxhall's own Martin Danfer, they were fitted with the assistance of Snape builder Jonathan King. In a nod to history the PCC opted to retain and refurbish the leaded glass and iron door furniture, which look wonderful with the new oak frames.



Church Repairs

You may be aware that much work is required to secure the structural integrity of St Peter's Church and that we need to raise a large amount of money. The PCC has prioritised the replacement of the rainwater drains and the removal of concrete render as the first phases of the work. There is a display in the church porch giving more details. The cost of this work is £75,000 and we must raise this before work can begin. The PCC has a modest 'fabric fund' and we have secured a small grant from the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. We have approached all the members of the PCC electoral role, the Friends of St Peter's and all the local businesses seeking their support for our fundraising. We are trying to identify other possible grant funders but have discovered that many will not entertain an application unless we can demonstrate we already hold or have pledges amounting to 50% of the necessary funds. *(continued on page 7)*

Upcoming Services

8 March 11am Holy Communion
17 March 11am Holy Communion
22 March 10am Mothering Sunday Holy
Communion Benefice Service

7 April 5pm Evening Prayer
10 April 2pm The Last Hour - words and
music for Good Friday
12 April 11am Easter Sunday HC



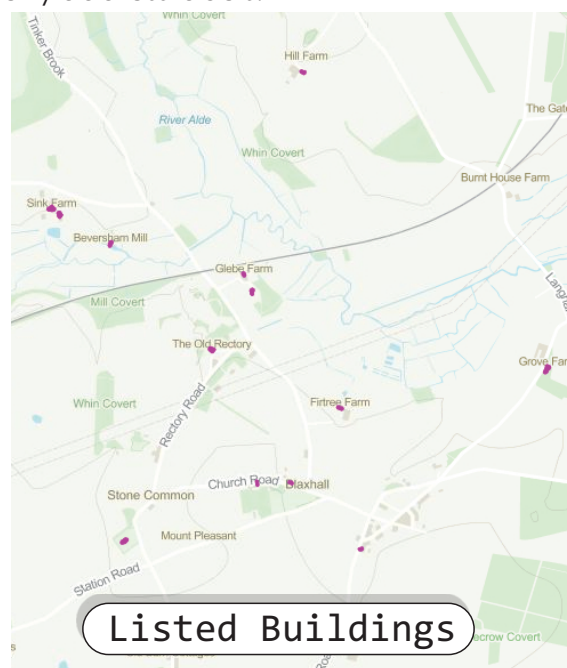
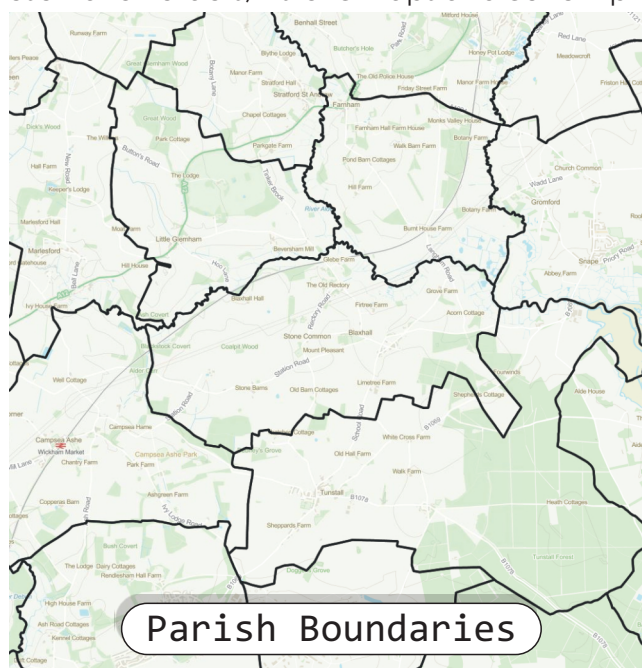
Recent Storms

The recent succession of storms has tested both the flooding trouble spots in the village and the potential for problems with old or weak roadside trees. The majority of ditches and drainage channels were cleaned out in recent weeks and seem to have performed acceptably, but if you live near, or drove through, a stretch that flooded badly please email or write to the parish clerk using the contact details on page 8. Please note, we are aware of recurring problems on a section of road between Lime Tree farm and Tunstall, but since the origin appears to be beyond the village boundary a solution may take a little longer to nail down.

On the tree front, thankfully few major sections of timber fell to earth, but if you are aware of a tree or branch that looks vulnerable please contact either the land owner or the parish clerk. Hopefully the worst of winter is now behind us, but remembering all too well a 1980s photo of Blaxhall under a foot of snow in March I won't be breaking out the Pimms and sombrero quite yet.

East Suffolk Council Map Page

The East Suffolk Council website can be a challenge to navigate on occasion, but those willing to persevere may be rewarded with genuinely useful pages such as the interactive map to be found here; <https://maps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/>. Users are free to switch on or off a variety of layers that include parish boundaries, listed buildings, aerial photos, polling districts, tree preservation orders, historic maps and current property address labels.



The Ship



With the Ship now under new management following some bumps in the road there's not much to report from the last month, but things are looking good for the year ahead. New landlord Ken tells us that a whole new menu is currently being finalised, the take-away pizza menu will be making a welcome return, and the upcoming events program is positively bulging. We've also been asked to mention that the pub has a vacancy for a full time house keeper; for further information please contact Ken on 01728 688316.

Live music dates for the months ahead:

- Steve Boyce, Sunday the 16th February @ 3pm
- John and Lynne Ward, Sunday the 23rd Feb @ 3pm
- Evening of traditional folk Wednesday 26th of Feb @ 8:30pm every 3rd Wednesday of the month
- Busk night, Thursday 27th of Feb. @ 8:30pm and every other Thursday there after
- Blue Wave Trio, Sunday March the 1st @ 3pm
- Roger and Freddie, Saturday the 7th of March @ 8:30pm
- Adam Thomas, Sunday the 8th of March 3pm
- Ant McAndrew, Saturday the 14th March @ 8:30pm
- We also have folk sessions every Monday starting from 2:30pm



Roger & Freddie (left) and John and Lynn (above) are amongst the acts coming to the Ship in February and March

Discrediting Civilisation and Defying Science

We've dived into the newspaper archive for our historical winter warmers. There are no shortage of Blaxhall references in old papers, stretching back to the mid 18th century, but the two below from 1907 caught my attention. (Whether or not the ne'er-do-wells from the first item left the village as instructed is lost to history, but if so they were both back by the time of the 1911 census. Young Willie Poacher happily survived his ordeal in article two, living on until 1981).

Magistrates Strongly Denounce Conduct of two Blaxhall Labourers. The village of Little Glemham was recently the scene of an occurrence discreditable to civilisation, the moving figures in which were two Blaxhall labourers named Thomas Woolnough and George Pryke, who, though comparatively young men, have each been convicted of similar offences no fewer than 26 times. They were charged before the Framlingham Magistrates on Saturday with being drunk and disorderly on the highway. Both admitted the truth of the charge. Police-constable Mallett, stationed at Marlesford, related the sordid facts. The two men, said, were in drunken condition and using most filthy language at the top of their voice in Little Glemham street, about 30 or 40 yards from the Lion Inn, at 10.10 p.m. heard one say to the other, "If you don't mind getting a month, let's go back and have a row", the remark being punctuated by some very foul expressions. Witness asked them to be quiet and go home, but they took no heed of what he said and continued to behave in this way for quite an hour. They ultimately reached Blaxhall, where witness left them. The Chairman (Col. Lucas), addressing the two men, said the history of their past convictions was as bad as it possibly could be. They were an absolute curse to their neighbours and in order not to bring further dishonour upon their parish, they should leave the village. They were each ordered to pay 46/8, in default one month's hard labour. Pryke was unable to find the money and was removed to Ipswich gaol. Supt. Mann was instructed by the Bench to make inquiries with a view of finding out where these men were allowed to drink to such excess on the night in question.

EXTRAORDINARY STORY FROM BLAXHALL. A LONG PIN EXTRACTED FROM CHILD'S STOMACH. A strange story, verified by a neighbour and eye-witness, comes from a Blaxhall cottage home. About a fortnight ago, Willie Poacher, three-year old child of Charles Poacher, agricultural labourer living in Blaxhall, who had been complaining of severe pain, and suffering from a boil in the region of his stomach, was taken to the Hospital, on the recommendation of the local doctor. The medical authority there, however, treated the case as an ordinary boil, and prescribed some simple remedy. The child was taken home again. Shortly after, the boy became worse, and screamed with the agony of the gathering boil, when suddenly his parents were horrified at seeing the point of a large, rusty pin protruding from the boil. Too frightened to extract it then and there, they called a neighbour, who found that the object had disappeared; but later on the child was again convulsed with pain, and the pin made its appearance a second time, projecting about an inch. It was this time seized and extracted, proving to be four and half inches long, and very rusty except the points. It was apparently a hatpin without top, or knitting-pin. The child has since recovered, and seems little the worse after its extraordinary deliverance.

Blaxhall Church Needs your Recipes!

We are raising funds by compiling a recipe book and all proceeds from its sale will go towards the Church Restoration Fund. Share your favourite recipes and any anecdotes about them.

Please send your recipes to:

Claire Peck
Beversham Mill
Church Road
Little Glemham
IP13 0BJ

Email: claire@peck.net

Or hand to a PCC member





The above photo is another of Malcolm Pearce's super drone shots, this time looking east over Stone Common towards the tiny but just discernable dome of Sizewell B power station some 8 miles distant.

On the right, two more pics of the fun and frolics enjoyed by those attending the Christmas party.

If you've taken any photos of Blaxhall events, scenes or nature that you'd like to contribute please send them to shane@blaxhall.com.

Festival Meeting

A meeting to discuss and plan the 2020 Blaxhall Festival will take place on the 10th of March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



This is a traditional festival, but welcomes new ideas and input, so everyone is warmly invited to attend, whether it be to contribute ideas, time, or blood, sweat and tears!



From Ladybirds to Oak Trees ...

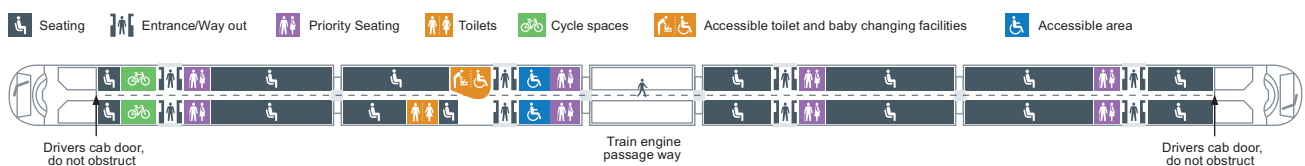
Church fundraisers are planning a variety of wildlife and nature based events for all ages later this year, so keep an eye out for upcoming flyers, posters and the spring newsletter providing details as they are finalised.

Upgraded Trains

To readers who travel by rail regularly this will be old news, but others may not be aware that the Ipswich-Lowestoft line received completely new rolling stock last autumn. The Swiss-built trains run on overhead electricity where available and diesel/battery power where not.



There is much improved wheelchair access, disabled toilets, nappy changing facilities, room for several bicycles, wide sliding doors, free wifi, 240v plugs and usb sockets on every seat, enhanced mobile phone reception and air conditioning. The image below shows the layout and features of the four-car version of the train introduced to our local line.



Continued from page 2 ...

A keen group of supporters has planned several events during the year – details elsewhere in this newsletter – and we hope that residents, friends and families will come along to support the campaign – and have a bit of fun at the same time !

If you feel able to support the project, cash donations may be placed in the wall safe inside the church door or cheques, payable to PCC of Blaxhall, sent to the treasurer Sheila Scopes, Old Post Office House, Mill Common, IP12 2ED. Bank details for BACs donations are sort code 20-98-07, account number 10688622. Please Gift Aid if possible (forms from Sheila) as this increases the value of your donation by 25% - at no cost to you!

Please do have look at the church display – it will be updated regularly – and support this very important work.

Thank you.

Fashion Show

Watch out for more news about the Vintage Fashion Show, to be held on the 11th of July in a very special location! Save the date for an evening of fun, fashion and reminiscence. If you are interested in modelling on the night please contact Maureen on 01728 688561



April 25th at 6.30pm in the village hall, Blaxhall Quiz night is back! A fun evening to test the grey cells while enjoying a fish & chip supper (delivered for 8pm and included in ticket price), licensed bar and raffle. Tickets £10 per head, from Jill on 01728 688317 or Claire on 01728 748483. Teams should ideally consist of up to 6 players.



Parish Councillors

Graham Bowles	01728 688192 (Chairman)	Karen Baker	01728 688200
Shane Pictor	01728 688205	Ray Herring	01728 746337
Jonathan Cutting	01728 688003	Mark Oakley	01728 687507
Joanne Peters	01394 459400 (Parish Clerk)	Maggie Jennings	01728 687689

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor - Ray Herring 07885 249218

ray.herring@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Suffolk County Councillor - Andrew Reid 07545 423799 andrew.reid@suffolk.gov.uk

Copies of minutes and agendas can be found at <http://blaxhall.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/>

Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30 and are open to all parishioners, the public and press. The 2020 dates are: **Wednesday 8th January, Wednesday 4th March, Wednesday 6th May, Wednesday 1st July, Wednesday 2nd September and Wednesday 4th November.**

Community Transport – “Connecting Communities” **01728 635938** The service booking line operates 08.45am to 4pm, Mon-Fri

Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust – www.blaxhallcommonstrust.org
For contact details of all trustees ring Mark Oakley 01728 687507

The **Mobile Library** comes to Blaxhall, and stops at **The Youth Hostel 9.35 – 10am** calling every 4 weeks on Wednesdays: **2019 dates: 31 July, 28 August, 25 September, 23 October, 20 November, 18 December.**

Large print, Audio & Childrens' books, also CDs and DVDs are available for a small charge. Contact Pete Wells or Helen Hudson on help@suffolklibraries.co.uk, visit the website <http://suffolkreads.onesuffolk.net/libraries-and-mobiles/> or phone **01473 584563**

To put something in the Village Noticeboard, please ring Graham Bowles 01728 688192
To put something in the Newsletter email to shane@blaxhall.com tel. 01728 688205

Allotment information contact Sophie Martin on 07724 356916,
Blaxhall.Allotments@gmail.com

Deadline for next Newsletter - 30th April